

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, MARR, PFOR,NATO IC,UK, NO

SUBJ: EXPANDED NORWEGIAN PROPOSAL IN NATO ON FISHERIES DISPUTE

REFS: (A) OSLO 758, (B) OSLO 0852 (C) USNATO 862 (D) STATE 40625

1. FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND HAS GIVEN ME WORKING DRAFT TEXT OF NEW NORWEGIAN PROPOSAL ON UK-ICELANDIC FISHERIES DISPUTE WHICH NORWAY WILL CIRCULATE IN NATO FEB 23 (INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF DRAFT TEST AT PARA 9).

2. IN REVIEWING NORWEGIAN POSITION(SEE REF A) AND DESIRE TO AMELIORATE A "TRAGIC" SITUATION, FRYDENLUND REITERATED HIS CONVICTION THAT FISHERIES ISSUE SO CRITICAL TO ICELANDERS THAT NO ONE CAN EXPECT RETIONALITY FROM THE QUARTER. THE FOREIGN MINISTER BELEIVES THAT THE GREATEST RISK IS A FURTHER ESCAATION OF CRISIS WITH ALL THAT IMPLIES FOR NORWEGIAN AND ALLIED SECURITY. THEREFORE PROPOSAL'S MAIN OBJECTIVE IS TO PUT TEMPORARY CAP ON CRISIS TO ALLOW TIME FOR PARTIES TO RESUME TALKS. PSYCHOLOGICAL ELEMENT IS IMPORTANT FACTOR HERE, ACCORDING TO FRYDENLUND.

3. ESSENCE OF NORWEGIAN PROPOSAL IS SCHEME FOR COMPENSATING BRITISH. ALTHOUGH NORWAY IS PREPARED TO

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"PAY THE WHOLE BILL" ON THIS ONE, FRYDENLUND DOES

NOT FEEL THAT WOULD BE WISE AND WOULD MUCH PREFER A SHARING OF EXPENSES AMONG SELECTED NATO PARTNERS INCLUDING GERMANS, BELGIANS, DUTCH, CANADIANS AND ANES. HE ADDED THAT HE HAS SUPPORT OF PRIME MINISTER NORDLI AND POWERFUL MINISTER OF FINANCE KLEPPE.

4. FOLLOWING ASSUMPTIONS BY NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT WORTH NOTING. A. ICELAND CANNOT NEGOTIATE WHILE ROYAL NAVY FIRGATES REMAIN. B. EVEN IF WARSHIPS ARE PULLED OUT, UK TRAWLERS WILL STILL BE SUBJECT TO HARRASSMENT. C. TO ASK BRITISH TO WITHDRAW TRAWLERS WITHOUT COMPENSATION IS UNREASONABLE. D. THEREFORE NORWAY HAS DEVISED PROPOSAL FOR JOINT FINANCIAL COMPENSATION OF UK.

5. NORWEGIAN/ICELANDIC CONSULTATIONS DURING LATEST FISHERIES DIPUTE HAVE BEEN FREQUENT AND FRYDENLUND CLAIMS TO HAVE TOP LEVEL ASSURANCES FROM REYKJAVIK THAT ICELAND WILL NOT REJECT THIS PROPOSAL ALTHOUGH ICELAND MADE NO COMMITMENTS TO NEGOTIATE WITH BRITISH.

6. FRYDENLUND SAID HE HADN'S CONSULTED DANES YET BUT WAS CONFIDENT THEY WOULD NOT OPPOSE PROPOSAL. NORWAY WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH OTHER ALLIED GOVERNMENTS OVER WEEKEND. THE FOREIGN MINISTER INDICATED HE WOULD NOT EXPECT PARTICIPATION BY SOUTHERN FLANK NATIONS AND REGARDED THIS AS RPIMARILY A NORTHERN ATLANTIC" PROBLEM. HE ADDED THAT NORWAY WILL RRAISE THIS AT NORDIC COUNCIL MEETING IN COPENHAGEN NEXT WEEKEND WHCIH WILL BE ATTENDED BY PRIME MINISTER HALLGRIMSON AS WELL AS NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS. FRYDENLUND BELEIVES IF NORWAY CAN GET PROPOSAL IN MOTION BEFORE NORDIC COUNCIL MEETING, THIS WILL ALLOW NORDICS TO BRING PRESSURE ON ICELAND IN THE DISPUTE.

7. FRYDENLUND ASSURED ME THAT NORWAY HAD NO DEIIRE FOR ITS PROPOSAL TO SET UNDESIRABLE PRECIDENTIN NATO AND NORWAY ARGUES THAT UNIQUE LOS ASPECTS OF DISPUTE TAKE CARE OF THIS PROBLEM.

8. FRYDENLUND WOULD WELCOM USG COMMENTS ON PROPOSAL AND WOULD CERTAINLY FACTOR IN ANY SUGGESTIONS HE FELT WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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ENHANCE ITS ACCEPTABILITY TO ICELAND, THE UK OR OTHER NATO ALLIES. IN ABSENCE OF REACTION FROM US, NORWEGIAN DELEGATION STILL PLANS TO CIRCULATE PROPOSAL IN NATO FEBRUARY 23. REQUEST DEPARTMENT PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON MOST URGENT BASIS(FRYDENLUND SAID MONDAY MORNING FEB 23 LOCAL TIME) SO THAT USG VIEWS MAY BE COMMUNICATED TO FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND IN TIME FOR NORWEGIANS TO (A) KNOW OUR POSITION AND (B)

CONSIDER POSSIBLE MODIFICATIONS WE MIGHT SUGGEST
BEFORE NORWAY ISSUES INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS NATO
MISSION

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